

Senate Resolution 19 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY DOTZLER, HART, KAPUCIAN, SCHNEIDER, and SODDERS

1 A Resolution reaffirming Iowa's commitment to its
2 relationship with Taiwan and supporting Taiwan's
3 efforts to participate in the international
4 community.

5 WHEREAS, the relationship between the Republic
6 of China (Taiwan) and the United States is marked
7 by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural
8 exchange, and tourism; and

9 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa's ties with Taiwan are
10 demonstrated by its sister-state and sister-city
11 relationships; and

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan shares with the United States
13 and the State of Iowa the common values of freedom,
14 democracy, human rights, and rule of law; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2013 the United States ranked as
16 Taiwan's 3rd largest trading partner and Taiwan ranked
17 as the United States' 12th largest trading partner,
18 with bilateral trade of \$63.6 billion; and

19 WHEREAS, Taiwan has consistently imported between
20 \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion annually worth of United
21 States farm products, and is the 7th largest market for
22 United States agricultural products and the world's 2nd
23 largest buyer per-capita of United States agricultural
24 goods; and

25 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the State of Iowa have enjoyed
26 a long and mutually beneficial trade relationship and
27 anticipate continuing trade growth, with Taiwan ranking
28 as Iowa's 16th largest export destination in 2013; and

1 WHEREAS, \$97.4 million worth of goods from the State
2 of Iowa were shipped to Taiwan in 2013 and comprised,
3 in order, food manufactures, miscellaneous manufactured
4 commodities, chemicals, machinery, paper, and computer
5 and electronic products; and

6 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa hosted a Taiwan
7 Agricultural Goodwill Mission delegation in 2013,
8 reaffirming the cordial relations between Iowa
9 and Taiwan and the ongoing mutual trade benefits
10 derived from Taiwan's reliable imports of Iowa farm
11 products, which in 2013 totaled \$63.5 million for food
12 manufactures and agricultural products combined; and

13 WHEREAS, Taiwan, seeking to contribute to greater
14 regional integration in the Asia-Pacific region and
15 promotion of bilateral investment and trade relations
16 with the United States, applauded the United States'
17 announcement of its intent to join the Trans-Pacific
18 Partnership, the proposed 21st century trade agreement
19 between the United States and 11 other Asia-Pacific Rim
20 countries; and

21 WHEREAS, Taiwan should be included in regional
22 economic integration based on its status as the world's
23 19th largest economy, 20th largest exporter, and 18th
24 largest importer, according to a 2013 World Trade
25 Organization report; and also due to its status as an
26 important economic power, a dynamic market economy, and
27 leading supplier of high-tech products; and

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the 17th most free economy
29 in the world according to the 2014 Index of Economic
30 Freedom, and the 5th most free economy among 42

1 economies in the Asia-Pacific region ranked only behind
2 Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand; and

3 WHEREAS, according to the Swiss-based International
4 Institute for Management Development's 2014 report,
5 Taiwan ranks as the 13th most competitive economy
6 worldwide and the 4th most competitive economy in the
7 Asian Pacific; and

8 WHEREAS, negotiations for a bilateral investment
9 agreement between Taiwan and the United States are an
10 important step toward further strengthening bilateral
11 trade and paving the way for entering into a free trade
12 agreement between our two nations, thereby increasing
13 the State of Iowa's exports to Taiwan and creating
14 bilateral investment and technical collaboration
15 through tariff reduction and other trade facilitation
16 measures; and

17 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been and can continue to be a
18 valuable and constructive partner in the international
19 response to the adverse effects of climate change and
20 severe weather emergencies as evidenced by its speedy
21 and generous response to aid the victims of Typhoon
22 Haiyan; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
24 reaffirms its commitment to the strong and deepening
25 sister-city and sister-state relationships between
26 Taiwan and the State of Iowa, its support for Taiwan's
27 efforts to secure the signing of a bilateral investment
28 agreement with the United States, and its support for
29 Taiwan's appropriate participation in international
30 organizations that impact Taiwan's health, safety, and

1 well-being; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of
3 the Senate is hereby directed to send a copy of this
4 Resolution to United States Secretary of State John
5 F. Kerry, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of
6 China (Taiwan), Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres
7 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
8 Change, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
9 Chicago, Illinois.